

CARES Commission



Department of Veterans Affairs
CARES Commission
Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services

**Vice Chairman R. John Vogel
Commissioner Vernice Ferguson
Commissioner Dr. John Kendall, Hearing Chair
Commissioner Robert Ray**

**September 3, 2003
Minneapolis VA Medical Center
Building 70, Room Auditorium, 1S-126
9:00 am – 1:00 pm**

TOPIC: Review of the Draft National CARES Plan for VISN 23

The CARES Commission is an independent commission chartered with the responsibility to provide the Secretary with recommendations on the Under Secretary for Health's Draft National CARES Plan. The Commission may accept, modify or reject the recommendations in this draft plan. In making its recommendations, the Commission will consider information gained through site visits, written comments from all stakeholders and public hearings.

Witnesses submitted written comments prior to the hearing in accordance with procedures of a public hearing. Witnesses are grouped in panels to present comments. Witnesses, except the Network Director, are asked to adhere to a five-minute statement so Commissioners will have time to ask questions of the witnesses. Questions for panelists will be limited to the Commissioners.

Everyone is encouraged to submit written comments on the Draft National CARES Plan until October 20, 2003. Comments about this hearing may be submitted today and for the next ten calendar days. Outside of the hearing room, computer operators are available to assist individuals in preparing written comments to the Commission and will accept hand written comments forms. Additionally, comments on the testimony or the Draft Plan may be submitted on the web site at www.carescommission@va.gov, or Marked "Comments" to:

Richard E. Larson, Executive Director
CARES Commission
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W. (00 CARES)
Washington, D.C. 20420

Or via facsimile at (202) 501-2196.

SEPTEMBER 3, 2003
MINNEAPOLIS HEARING (VISN 23)
PANEL OF WITNESSES

PLEDGE OF ALLIANCE – Dick Carroll (Ex POW) OPENING REMARKS – COMMISSIONER KENDALL	9:00 - 9:15
Panel 1 Dr. Robert (Randy) Petzel, Network Director, VA Midwest Health Care Network, accompanied by: Barry Graham, MD, Chief Medical Officer, VA Midwest Health Care Network Joseph Dalpiaz, Director VA Black Hills Health Care System (Fort Meade and Hot Springs, SD) Douglas Kenyon, Director, VA Medical & Regional Office Center, Fargo, ND Steven Kleinglass, Director, VA Medical Center, Minneapolis, MN Barry Bahl, Director, VA Medical Center, St. Cloud, MN William Becker, Chief of Staff, VA Medical & Regional Office Center, Sioux Falls, SD	9:15 – 10:45
Panel 2 Mr. Oscar Ballard, Paralyzed Veterans of America Mr. Lyle Pearson, Disabled American Veterans <i>(no written statement)</i> Mr. Jerome W. Fitzsimmons, Des Moines National Service Officer, DAV Mr. Dennis Foell, State Director, Division of Veterans Affairs, South Dakota Mr. Tom Hanson, Veterans of Foreign Wars Mr. Ray Harkema, Commissioner, Department of Veterans Affairs, North Dakota Mr. Daniel Ludwig, American Legion Mr. Jeff Olson, Commissioner, Department of Veterans Affairs, Minnesota Mr. John Scocos, Deputy Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs Mr. Gene A. Murphy, Past National Commander, Disabled American Veterans <i>(unable to attend)</i>	10:45 – 11:45
Panel 3 Mr. Vincent Crawford, St. Paul Regional Office, Veterans Benefits Administration Dr. Sandra Edwardson, Dean, School of Nursing, University of Minnesota Dr. Charles Moldow, Sr. Associate Dean University of Minnesota Col Lairie O. Stabler, Tricare Lead Agent <i>(unable to attend)</i>	11:45– 12:30
Panel 4 Dr. Mary Lawrence, Physicians Association, Minneapolis Ms. Kathy Maynard, President AFGE Local 2342, Black Hills Health Care System <i>(unable to attend)</i> Ms. Jane Nygard, President AFGE Local 3669, Minneapolis Mr. Patrick Russell AFGE Local 1539, Hot Springs	12:30 – 1:1

Congressional Statements

Senator Kent Conrad

Congressman Pomeroy